

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /060 W
-----071729Z 084263 /47

O P 071712Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5402
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 02296

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MPOL NATO MILI AWACS PO GW
SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON NATO AEW AND ON PORTUGUESE
FORCE MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) USNATO 0636; (B) USNATO 0645; (C) BONN 2237

1. GENERAL BRANDT, CHIEF OF POLITICAL/MILITARY
AFFAIRS AT THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS CALLED
THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CONFIRM THE INFORMATION HE
HAD GIVEN US EARLIER (REF C): THAT THE FEDERAL SECURITY
COUNCIL DID NOT FORMALLY ADDRESS THE AWACS ISSUE IN A
DECISION PAPER. HE SAID AWACS WAS DISCUSSED (AS
AMBASSADOR PAULS REPORTED IN REF B), BUT THAT THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY DID NOT PRESENT THE FULL BRIEFING
THAT THE MINISTRY HAD PREPARED FOR HIM. BRANDT SAID HE
DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD AFFECT THE AWACS DECISION
PROCESS, SINCE THERE HAD TO BE A MEETING OF FINANCIAL
EXPERTS BEFORE A FORMAL GERMAN DECISION COULD BE MADE

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IN ANY EVENT.

2. GENERAL BRANDT SAID THE FMOD WAS NOW AWAITING
THE FULL REPORT ON THE MEETING FROM CHIEF OF STAFF
GENERAL WUST. THE FMOD WOULD THEN TRY TO DEAL WITH
ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RAISED AT THE
FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.

3. AS FOR PORTUGAL, BRANDT ALSO CONFIRMED THE EARLIER INFORMATION THAT THE FORCE MODERNIZATION ISSUES WERE NOT ADDRESSED AT THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THIS SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE DECISION PROCESS EITHER BECAUSE THE US-FRG MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THE FRG WOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER BY THEN.

4. COMMENT: WE WISH TO TALK TO OTHER GERMAN OFFICIALS BEFORE OFFERING OUR VIEWS ON AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (REF B). LIKE AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE, WE BELIEVE MINISTER LEBER'S REPLY TO SECDEF CONSTITUTES THE CRUCIAL NEXT ELEMENT IN THE AEW DECISION CHAIN, AND WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER LEBER NOW FEELS HE HAS ENOUGH GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO REPLY.

5. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE GETTING MANY SIGNALS REINFORCING PAULS'S REMARK (PARA LC, REF B) THAT THE US MAY NOW BE "SELLING" THE AWACS SYSTEM SOMEWHAT TOO HARD. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE GERMAN DECISION PROCESS MUST GO THROUGH ITS OWN REQUIRED STEPS BEFORE WE OPENLY INTERVENE WITH AN OFFER TO BRIEF THE CHANCELLOR. WE RECOGNIZE THE FRUSTRATIONS AND THE TIMING CONSIDERATIONS POSED BY BRITISH CONCERNS, AND WE WILL TRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF WHAT NEXT STEPS HERE ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY BUILDUP, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN02296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770043-0375
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770268/aaaachya.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0cdd0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 2237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3395197
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG POSITION ON NATO AEW AND ON PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, MILI, PO, GE, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0cdd0fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009